



### NCSC Project-Key Points for Indiana's new Alternate Assessment

- The Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics (2014) describe the skills and knowledge in reading/writing and mathematics that students need to learn to be prepared for college and careers.
- Indiana students must have yearly assessments (tests) in grades 3-8 and 10 based on these new standards by the 2014-15 school year, including alternate assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- Indiana is one of 24 states and 5 organizations working together as the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) to develop new reading/writing and mathematics alternate assessments.
- NCSC has also developed Core Content Connectors or CCCs that focus on these 'big ideas'. These are the main skills and knowledge in each grade that prepare students for later grades. Indiana has identified those CCCs that align to the new Indiana standards.
- The instruction and assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities will be based on these 'big ideas' and the CCCs.
- The assessment for each content area will have about 30 questions and take 1.5-2 hours to finish. Based on the responses in session one, session two will consist of items adapted to the students' appropriate testing level.
- NCSC has developed materials that teachers may use for instruction with students who will take these alternate assessments.
- Some materials are to support lessons designed for students of all abilities in general education classrooms and some materials are designed for small group and one-to-one lessons.
  - There are also NCSC resources designed to help teachers find a way for students to communicate effectively.
- NCSC's focus is to help students with significant cognitive disabilities continue their education after high school, to be prepared for employment, and to have a fulfilling life in the community.
  - For more information on NCSC resources used in Indiana, contact Project SUCCESS:

<http://projectsuccessindiana.com/content/>.